

IN MOGADISCIO. IS THERE THEREFORE SUCH URGENCY TO FOLLOWING AMERICAN PERSONNEL IF GSDR CONFIDENT TERRORISTS HAVE NOT YET ARRIVED. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT OUR EMBASSY BE IN TOUCH WITH POLICE AS TO THE BEST WAYS TO INSURE SECURITY OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL. MEANWHILE, WE WOULD PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER DETAILS OF THREAT REPORT, E.G., WHEN AND WHERE ACQUIRED, CAN THERE BE FURTHER ACCESS TO SAME SOURCE? THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION WOULD FACILITATE OUR OWN EVALUATION AND COORDINATION (POINTING OUT PREVIOUS INFORMATION ON TERRORISM PASSED BY EMBASSY TO GSDR).

7. COMMENT: AT HEIGHT OF LAST SPRING'S BSO THREAT GSDR PROVIDED ESCORT TO AMB OR CHARGE. THIS PROTECTION SUPPLEMENTED BY MSG ACCOMPANYING AMBASSADOR. RESPONSE TO PRESENT UNEVALUATED REPORT DOES NOT SEEM TO US TO REQUIRE THIS STEP, MUCH LESS ESCORT FOR ALL EMBASSY OFFICERS. I FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT IF ABDURAHMAN INSISTS THAT GSDR CONSIDERS THIS NECESSARY, WE MUST ACCEDE. TO REFUSE WOULD BE TO ABSOLVE GSDR OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL, WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT TERRORIST PREPARATIONS IN MOGADISCIO FOR SUCHAN OPERATION WOULD BE PICKED UP BY GSDR. IF GSDR RECEIVES FURTHER REPORTS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 MOGADI 00134 301240Z

THAT SUCH AN OPERATION BEING ACTIVELY PLANNED OR HAS INDICATIONS
TERRORISTS MAY ACTUALLY HAVE ARRIVED IN MOGADISCIO, WE COULD
OPT MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD ESCORTING AMERICANS. MEAN-
WHILE, OUR TALK WITH JAMA TOMORROW MORNING SHOULD GIVE US MORE
SENSE OF DEGREE OF CONCERN FELT BY POLICE APPARATUS AND MEASURES
THEY ARE TAKING TO MEET THIS PROBLEM.

8. AS NOTED ABOVE, WE WILL BE SEEKING MORE DETAILS FROM
ABDURAHMAN AND JAMA ON THIS REPORT BUT WOULD MEANWHILE APPRECIATE
ANY INFORMATION OR JUDGMENT ADDRESSEES WOULD HAVE AS TO ITS
LIKELY VERACITY.

9. I AM BRIEFING EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND URGING CAUTION ON
EVERYONE'S PART.

KIRK

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156) (C)

SUBJECT: KENSALT
(OO: Los Angeles)

DATE: 7/26/74

Re Los Angeles letter to the Bureau, dated 4/3/74.

Enclosed are two copies each of movie script captioned, "SIRHAN/SIRHAN" by DONALD FREED with JACK KIMBROUGH and manuscript of book, "The Killing of Robert Kennedy," by JACK KIMBROUGH and GARTH M. YOUNG.

A former confidential source of the Los Angeles Office advised that he had been contacted by DONALD FREED concerning a movie script regarding the assassination of the late Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

It is noted that FREED is the subject of Bureau file 100-447268 and Los Angeles file 100-67274.

The former source attended a pre-production meeting for this movie and those present besides FREED were SHIRLEY SUTHERLAND (Bureau File 157-14319), ART KUNKIN, former editor of the Los Angeles Free Press, a Los Angeles underground newspaper, and SAL MINEO, a well known movie actor.

The theme of the movie script according to this source seeks to point out that this actual assassination of KENNEDY was perpetrated by THANE CESAR a uniformed private guard on duty at the Ambassador Hotel on the night of the assassination. The source further advised that FREED claimed CESAR was a former Los Angeles Police Department officer who was fired from the Department because he

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 4) (RM) REC-83
(1 - 100-447268)
2 - Los Angeles
(1 - 100-67274)

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ENC. BEHIND FILE

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furnished information to the Ku Klux Klan and the Minutemen.

FREED advised he desired to send a copy of the movie script to MICHAEL MC COWAN, former investigator for the Defense Team who represented SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN.

It is noted that the theory expressed in this movie script has previously been brought forth by Mr. JOHN CHRISTIAN and before that was advanced by Los Angeles attorney BARBARA WARNER BLEHR. This matter was set forth in detail in referenced Los Angeles letter. The former confidential source made a copy of this script available to the Los Angeles Office.

This same former confidential source also advised that MICHAEL MC COWAN also received from a G. M. YOUNG a copy of a manuscript of a book entitled, "The Killing of Robert F. Kennedy." YOUNG co-author of the book with a JACK KIMBROUGH, is supposed to be the nephew of DONALD FREED.

Source indicated that the KIMBROUGH and YOUNG manuscript appears to advance the theory concerning the killing of the late Senator KENNEDY as espoused by FREED in his screen play. The source also made available a copy of this.

Two copies each of the described exhibits are being forwarded to the Bureau for information. The extra copy is furnished in the event the Bureau desires to furnish a copy of these documents to the Department of Justice.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Adams

DATE: December 12, 1974

FROM : R. E. Gebhardt

1 - Mr. Callahan
1 - Mr. Gebhardt
1 - Mr. Bates
1 - Mr. Huppert

SUBJECT: KENSALT

Assoc. Dir. _____
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Director Sec'y _____

At the request of Mr. Callahan I conversed with Assistant Attorney General Pottinger of the Civil Rights Division concerning captioned matter. Pottinger explained today that former Congressman Allen Lowenstein and a group of individuals have or are going to petition the court in Los Angeles for a new trial for Sirhan Sirhan based on a premise involving the weapon utilized in this case. He said that these people are alleging that the bullets obtained from the bystanders who were wounded at the time of Bobby Kennedy's assassination did not and could not have come from the weapon recovered which ballistics experts proved killed Bobby Kennedy. These people are, therefore, stating in effect that there was a second weapon not recovered or involved in this matter. He was contacting the FBI on the assumption that the FBI Laboratory had perhaps done the ballistics test on this weapon.

REC-46 62-587-1300

I advised Pottinger that the FBI did conduct an extensive investigation in this regard; however, the subject was prosecuted in State Court in Los Angeles and the ballistics examination was conducted by the Los Angeles Police Department experts. I advised him our Los Angeles Office had advised that there was only one weapon involved in this case and entered into evidence testified to by the Los Angeles Police Department experts. There was some confusion at the time of the trial because a mistake was made in marking the only weapon introduced as an exhibit; however, the entire matter was resolved prior to the completion of the trial, although the defense made a big issue over this matter.

Pottinger was most appreciative for the information and advised that if any inquiries were received in this regard, he would refer them to the Los Angeles District Attorneys Office.

ACTION: For information.

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REG:mcw

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(X2,X3)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 24 1975

TELETYPE

Rm 5934 JEH

NR 049 LA PLAIN

1102PM NITEL 7/23/75 ANR

TO DIRECTOR

FROM LOS ANGELES (62-7537) (P)

ATTN: OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL, FILES AND COMMUNICATION DIVISION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT UNIT.

INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY,
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST.

RE BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL TO LOS ANGELES ON JULY 23, 1975.

IN REFERENCED TELEPHONE CALL BUREAU SUPERVISOR THOMAS
BRESSION, FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT UNIT, REQUESTED THAT
CONTACT BE MADE WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN LOS ANGELES TO
DETERMINE WHETHER THE BUREAU WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF
ANY CALIFORNIA OR LOS ANGELES REGULATION OR STATUTORY
PROVISION IF IT RELEASES, IN RESPONSE TO A FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) REQUEST, INFORMATION OBTAINED IN
CONFIDENCE FROM THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT (LAPD)
CONCERNING INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED IN THE ROBERT F. KENNEDY
ASSASSINATION. DEPUTY LOS ANGELES CITY ATTORNEY, DAVE PEREZ,

LiO

REC-10

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PAGE TWO

TELEPHONE NUMBER 213-485-5023, WAS CONTACTED AND HE ADVISED THE ONLY PERTINENT STATUTE HE WAS AWARE OF IN THIS MATTER WOULD BE CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTIONS 6250 THROUGH 6260, THE SHORT TITLE OF WHICH IS KNOWN AS CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT. INCLUDED IN THIS ACT IS SECTION 6254 SUB F, WHICH EXCLUDES FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE ".... INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ANY STATE OR LOCAL POLICE AGENCY" PEREZ FURTHER ADVISED THAT THE LAPD HAS BEEN SERVED WITH A 60 PAGE REQUEST BY THE NATIONAL NETWORK CBS REQUESTING DISCLOSURE OF THE ENTIRE LAPD FILE ON THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY. INCLUDED IN THIS FILE ARE COPIES OF ALL OF THE FBI REPORTS ON THE INVESTIGATION, WHICH WERE DISSEMINATED TO THE LAPD. PEREZ STATED THAT THIS REQUEST WILL BE GIVEN A HEARING BEFORE THE LOS ANGELES POLICE COMMISSION IN THE POLICE COMMISSION HEARING ROOM, PARKER CENTER, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, AT 2:00 PM, ON JULY 24, 1975.

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PEREZ INDICATED THAT HE FEELS CBS INTENDS TO PURSUE THIS MATTER INTO COURT IF NECESSARY . HE ANTICIPATES THAT NO DECISION OF THE POLICE COMMISSION ON THE MATTER OF DISCLOSURE

PAGE THREE

WILL BE MADE AT THE HEARING TOMMORROW. HE FURTHER ADVISED THAT NO CONCRETE DECISION AS TO DISCLOSURE HAS BEEN MADE AS YET BY THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY. PEREZ REQUESTED INFORMATION CONCERNING WHETHER ANY DEPARTMENTAL ORDER, FEDERAL REGULATION OR FEDERAL STATUTE EXISITS, WHICH WOULD BAR RELEASE OF THE FBI INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE LAPD FILES. HE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THE LEGAL FORCE BEHIND THE PROPERTY STATEMENT CONTAINED ON FBI DOCUMENTS, WHICH ARE DISSEMINATED TO OUTSIDE AGENCIES. PEREZ WAS ADVISED OF THE CONTENTS OF DEPARTMENTAL ORDER 3464 REVISED SUPPLEMENTAL FOUR AND OF THE EXISTANCE OF TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE (USC), SECTION 534. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE INFORMATION PEREZ ALSO REQUESTED THE CURRENT LOCATION OF THE REPORTS WHICH WERE GIVEN BY THE LAPD TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND WHETHER THERE IS CURRENTLY ANY PUBLIC OR MEDIA ACCESS TO THESE FILES. HE REQUESTED THIS INFORMATION BECAUSE HE FELT IT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES TO WITHHOLD THEIR FILES IF IN FACT THE IDENTICAL INFORMATION CAN CURRENTLY BE OBTAINED FROM THE FBI OR THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. IN THIS REGARD HE STATED IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THREE COPIES OF EACH LAPD REPORT WERE MADE. HE STATED

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PAGE FOUR

HE HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT TWO OF THESE COPIES ARE IN THE POSSESSION OF THE LAPD AND THAT THE THIRD HAD BEEN DESIGNATED FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES SO THAT THEY COULD BE PLACED IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES. IF POSSIBLY, PEREZ WOULD LIKE THE ANSWERS TO HIS ABOVE REQUESTS PRIOR TO THE POLICE COMMISSION HEARING, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 2:00 PM ON JULY 24, 1975. PEREZ WILL MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE LOS ANGELES FBI AND WILL ADVISE OF ANY ACTION DECIDED UPON BY THE CITY ATTORNEY OR THE LAPD POLICE COMMISSION. THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO SUPPLY ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING DEPARTMENTAL ORDERS, REGULATIONS, OR STATUTES, WHICH WOULD LIMIT LAPD DISCLOSURE OF FBI INFORMATION. IN ADDITION, THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS POSED BY PEREZ IN REGARDS TO THE LOCATION OF THE LAPD INVESTIGATIVE FILES, AND WHETHER THERE IS CURRENTLY ANY PUBLIC OR MEDIA ACCESS TO THESE FILES.

END

MPM FBIHQ CLR

*Teleph. conv.
with SA Jackson
on 7/22
+ 7/31*

KENSALT

Mr. Hall

KENSALT

RFK Shooting Questions Persist

By William Farr and John Kendall

Farr and Kendall are staff writers for the Los Angeles Times, from which this article is excerpted.

LOS ANGELES—Pressure is growing to reopen the Robert F. Kennedy assassination case and address again the question, "Was Sirhan Bishara Sirhan the lone gunman?"

To most Americans, it must seem as if that question has been answered: that Sirhan acted alone at 12:15 a.m. June 5, 1968, when he emptied a revolver at Kennedy in the pantry of Los Angeles' Ambassador Hotel.

The 42-year-old senator, shot down in triumph after winning California's Democratic presidential primary, died about 25 hours later. Sirhan was convicted, sentenced to death, then given life in prison.

Not everyone is satisfied, however, with the answer provided early in 1969 at Sirhan's three-month trial. To a few conspiracy buffs, the answer that Sirhan acted alone was never satisfactory. Now there is a growing

chorus of those who do not talk about conspiracy, but rather call for re-examination of apparent anomalies in the physical evidence collected in the case.

Just before his death on June 27, Los Angeles District Attorney Joseph P. Busch had considered ways to reopen aspects of the case, possibly through a special master appointed by the California Supreme Court. Busch had not changed his opinion. He still firmly believed Sirhan was the lone gunman. But, associates said, he recognized a possible need to restore public faith that nothing about the case remained untold or undiscovered.

In recent weeks and months, some of the nation's best-known newspapers have published stories examining doubts raised about the assassination

See SIRHAN, Page C5

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The Washington Post
7/20/75 Pages C-1, C-5

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SIRHAN, From Page 51

Ted Charach, a Los Angeles-based, Canadian-born journalist who early questioned the official version of the assassination, has produced and toured the nation with a documentary called "The Second Gun."

Last February, Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.) introduced a measure in Congress to establish a select committee for a broad investigation of the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy, the Rev. Martin Luther King and the attempted assassination of Gov. George C. Wallace. He has 39 co-sponsors for the bill.

Allard K. Lowenstein, a former congressman from New York, who is now chairman of California's Fair Political Practices Commission, demands that a panel of impartial experts be permitted to:

- Refire Sirhan's gun to check challenged evidence offered by DeWayne Wolfer, chief of the Los Angeles Police Department's scientific investigation division.

- Examine bullet holes in three soundproof ceiling panels from the pantry and in the right shoulder-pad area of Kennedy's coat to determine the number and the direction of bullets which struck them.

- Analyze evidence bullets through a neutron activation process to determine whether all the bullets were fired from Sirhan's gun.

- Read the illustrated, 10-volume summary of the Los Angeles police investigation of the assassination.

Everyone Was Certain

TO THE PROSECUTORS who helped convict Sirhan and to the police officers who investigated the case, it is ludicrous to question whether Sirhan was the only gunman. Was there ever a plainer case?

Perhaps 90 to 100 persons were jammed in the Ambassador's pantry when Sen. Kennedy was shot. Close friends and associates were in nearly physical contact with him. Suddenly, Sirhan rushed across the room, screamed an oath, reached past an assistant maitre d' escorting Kennedy and fired at the senator.

Sirhan was captured. His gun was seized and his captors protected him from enraged members of the crowd.

Not a single person who was in that crowded pantry now says anyone beside Sirhan was seen firing a gun. A television film runner once said he saw a guard fire a ~~weapon~~ but he has since backtracked.

At the trial, Sirhan admitted he shot Kennedy, and his attorneys focused attempts to save his life on grounds of diminished mental capacity.

So what, authorities may well ask now, are media types, conspiracy buffs and publicity seekers talking about? It's simply ridiculous to say that anyone but Sirhan was firing in that pantry.

Skeptics say, on the other hand, that it is precisely because everyone was so certain that Sirhan was the lone assassin that the present situation was created. They say evidence introduced in the trial was not subjected to rigorous cross-examination and eyewitness testimony which appeared to conflict with the prosecution's case was discounted or ignored.

To understand what the doubters are questioning and authorities are answering, it is perhaps best to consider the complicated circumstances in sections.

The Guns

SIRHAN'S GUN was an Iver-Johnson .22 caliber 8-shot Cadet model with a short barrel. Number H53725. Sirhan paid a few dollars for it second-hand. The wiry, 5-foot 3-inch Jordanian refugee fought fiercely to keep it.

To cries of "Get him!", "Get the gun!", some of those near Kennedy grappled with Sirhan. Karl Uecker, a hefty, 190-pound assistant maitre d', wrestled Sirhan to a tabletop and hit his gun hand against it.

Bill Barry, the senator's bodyguard who had been escorting Kennedy's wife, Ethel, fought through the crowd and twisted the revolver from Sirhan's hand.

Criminologist Wolfer testified about the gun two days later at a grand jury hearing. His expert testimony was that a bullet removed from the area of Kennedy's sixth cervical vertebra and another taken from William Weisel's abdomen had been fired by the Iver-Johnson revolver.

Four of the seven test bullets which Wolfer indicated were fired from Sirhan's gun and reclaimed were introduced as Exhibit 5B.

At Sirhan's trial—months later—Wolfer said that Sirhan's gun had fired the Kennedy and Weisel evidence bullets. Three test bullets used for comparison were introduced as Exhibit 55.

The envelope holding the bullets was marked with the gun serial number H18602—not H53725, the number of Sirhan's gun. The wrong number was not discovered until nearly two years later.

Pasadena criminologist William W. Harper, a sometime critic of Wolfer's work, noted it in November, 1970, while checking physical evidence in the case at the county clerk's office.

In an affidavit dated Dec. 28, 1970, Harper, now 72, concluded that two .22-caliber guns were involved in the Kennedy assassination.

He surmised further that the senator was killed by a shot fired from a position other than Sirhan's, and he considered it "extremely unlikely" that Sirhan even shot Kennedy.

Both the DA and the police explained the wrong serial number on Exhibit 55 as a "clerical error" made by Wolfer in confusing the number of a second .22 caliber revolver used for other tests.

Because Sirhan's gun had been introduced as evidence at the grand jury on June 7, 1968, authorities said, it was not available for muzzle-distance tests made by Wolfer on June 11.

Therefore, they said, Wolfer checked out another Iver-Johnson Cadet Model .22 revolver—Number H18602—from the police department's property division on June 10, and used it next day to check the range at which Kennedy had been shot.

When he later made out Exhibit 55 for the trial, Wolfer wrote H18602 on the envelope containing three test bullets instead of the number of Sirhan's gun, officials said.

To skeptics the wrong number raises the possibility that proper bullet comparisons were never made. They suggest Sirhan's gun may have been so badly damaged in the gunman's capture it could not be used to test-fire bullets for comparison.

The Los Angeles Times obtained a Superior Court order a week ago to view physical evidence in the case, including Sirhan's revolver. The weapon (H53725) appeared from superficial examination to be operable.

Newsmen representing the Times also found a notation on Exhibit 5B which tends to support the official contention that a clerical error is responsible for the wrong serial number on the test bullets introduced as Exhibit 55 at Sirhan's trial.

The serial number on 5B introduced at the grand jury—four of seven test bullets Wolfer said were fired from Sirhan's revolver—was H53725, the serial number of Sirhan's gun.

The Bullets

SEN. KENNEDY died in Good Samaritan Hospital at 1:44 a.m. June 6, 1968. Within two hours, County Coroner Thomas T. Noguchi began an autopsy.

Noguchi found that a bullet had entered behind Kennedy's right ear and shattered in the brain. Two others struck in the right armpit. One exited through the right chest. The other stopped at the base of the neck. A fourth bullet passed through the shoulder-pad area of the coat.

It was the bullet taken from the area of the sixth cervical vertebra that Wolfer identified as coming from Sirhan's gun. It was designated as Exhibit 47 at the trial.

Five others in the pantry besides Kennedy were shot. Bullets or fragments were recovered from them all. The bullet in the best condition was removed from William Weisel's abdomen.

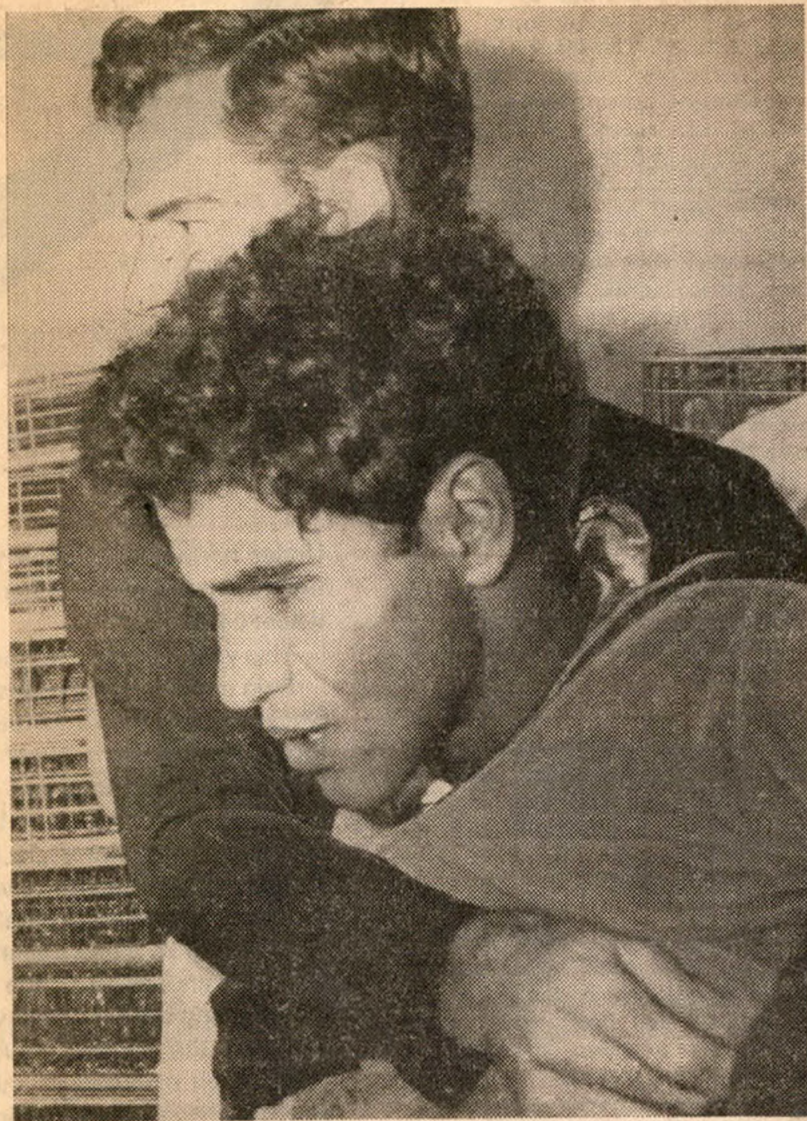
At Sirhan's trial, Wolfer also identified the Weisel bullet, Exhibit 54, as having been fired from Sirhan's gun.

The police expert said he based his conclusions about Exhibits 47 and 54 on examinations under a comparison microscope of individual identifying marks common to them and test bullets fired from Sirhan's gun.

Wolfer's testimony about the evidence bullets was not challenged then. Sirhan's attorneys stipulated that bullet fragments from Kennedy's brain had come from their client's gun.

It was not until Harper's affidavit on Dec. 28, 1970, that anyone questioned Wolfer's identification.

Harper, a consulting criminologist for 35 years, photographed the Kennedy and Weisel bullets with the assistance of an engineer for a company which developed the Hycon Balliscan camera. This camera produces photo-



United Press International

Sirhan Sirhan is taken from Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles after shooting of Robert Kennedy.

graphs of the entire circumferences of bullets by rotating them in phases in front of a lens. The photos then can be placed side by side for comparison.

In his affidavit, Harper declared that his examination had failed to disclose any individual characteristics establishing that the Kennedy and Weisel bullets had been fired from the same gun.

Furthermore, Harper said, his study disclosed that the Kennedy bullet has a rifling angle about 23 minutes or 14 per cent greater than the rifling angle of the Weisel bullet. Bullets are marked when they are spun by spiral rifling grooves built into a gun's barrel to stabilize a missile in flight. Harper measured these marks.

He went on to conclude, "It is, therefore, my opinion that bullets 47 and 54 could not have been fired from the same gun."

The Los Angeles police board of inquiry appointed to investigate the challenge to Wolfer's competence reported in October, 1971, that when analyzed the importance of Harper's 23-minute difference is "questionable."

Pointing out that a circle is divided into 360 degrees and a degree is composed of 60 minutes, the board noted the difference reported by Harper amounts to about one-third of a degree.

"When the difficulty of exactly aligning the two bullets is realized, the minute difference of 23 minutes loses its importance," the board concluded.

But in November, 1973, another expert arrived at the same conclusion as Harper: that the Kennedy and Weisel bullets were not fired from the same weapon.

Herbert Leon MacDonell, director

of the Laboratory of Forensic Science in Corning, N.Y., signed an affidavit based on his study of the Harper photographs of the evidence bullets.

MacDonell introduced to the controversy a new element: cannellures. Cannellures are knurled rings running around a bullet's circumference. They are placed there in the manufacture.

MacDonell noted the Kennedy bullet has one cannellure while the Weisel bullet has two. Yet shell casings in Sirhan's gun identified the ammunition as long-rifle minimags made by Omark-C.C.I. of Lewiston, Idaho. He said Omark reported to him that it had never manufactured long-rifle minimag ammunition with less than two cannellures.

Also, MacDonell said he had found a difference in rifling angles of "nearly one-half of a degree" between the Kennedy and Weisel bullets and had failed to find matching individual characteristics on the two missiles.

"Overall sharpness of the Kennedy bullet suggests that it was fired from a barrel whose rifling was in far better condition than the one from which the Weisel bullet was fired," he said.

In response to questions posed by the Los Angeles Times, the district

attorney's office challenged the findings of both MacDonell and Harper.

Positive identification of bullets as coming from a particular weapon rests upon microscopic study of the evidence, not photographs, the statement said. Furthermore, the DA maintained, both rifling angles and cannellures are not "significant" in the positive identification of evidence bullets.

The Eyewitnesses

THE EXPERTS are certain Sen. Kennedy was shot from a distance of 1 to 3 inches behind the right ear and 1 to 6 inches beneath the right arm. The greater numbers are the outside limits, according to police expert Wolfer and coroner Noguchi. Actually, they estimated the muzzle distances were nearly contact.

Nearly contact. In a room crowded with 90 to 100 potential witnesses, about 30 of them in Kennedy's imme-

diately vicinity. You might imagine those circumstances offer poor material for controversy.

Actually, to those who question the official version, eyewitness accounts of the shooting are cited as persuasive evidence that the full story has never been told.

Some of those near Kennedy have said the muzzle of Sirhan's gun never came close enough to inflict nearly contact wounds. If they are correct, then who fired the shots that struck Kennedy at point-blank range—as the autopsy shows? A second gunman?

Police Chief Ed Davis recently refused to answer questions about the case on grounds that it had been settled at Sirhan's trial and in subsequent legal actions, including an appeal.

In 1971, however, the Los Angeles police board of inquiry relied on the absence of eyewitnesses to maintain: "It is unrealistic at this time to theorize that a second gun was fired during the assassination. Many people witnessed this crime, but not one of those persons observed a second gunman firing a weapon."

To the doubters, that police assurance settled nothing.

The district attorney's office insisted

a week ago that both physical evidence and eyewitness accounts at Sirhan's trial showed that Sirhan was in a position to shoot Kennedy at "virtually point-blank range."

The DA suggested eyewitness accounts do not coincide in every detail because: not all witnesses have the same vantage point; no witness is necessarily more or less reliable than another; not all witnesses who testified at the trial were asked about muzzle distance; not all witnesses were in a position to observe each and every detail.

How Many Shots?

FIVE PLUS FOUR equals nine. Sirhan fired eight shots. How is it that bullets were recovered from five victims other than Kennedy and four bullets either wounded the senator or passed through his clothing? That's nine.

The problem was complicated by disclosure that there was a bullet hole in each of three soundproofing ceiling panels hung in the pantry.

Nine plus three equals 12.

Then, there was that Associated Press photograph taken June 5, 1968. It showed two policemen looking at what the caption said was a bullet found in a door frame at the scene.

Twelve plus one equals 13.

None of the equations or answers greater than eight is correct, according to authorities. What happened was that some bullets made more than one hole, they say.

The Los Angeles police department's criminalistics section offered its explanation in a "trajectory study" dated July 8, 1968, and later produced a schematic drawing supporting these conclusions:

Bullet No. 1: Entered Kennedy's head behind the right ear and was later recovered from his head.

Bullet No. 2: Passed through the right shoulder pad of Kennedy's coat, traveled upward and struck Paul Schrader in the forehead.

Bullet No. 3: Entered the senator's right rear shoulder about seven inches from the top of the shoulder and came to rest at the sixth cervical vertebra.

Bullet No. 4: Entered Kennedy's right rear back about one inch to the right of bullet No. 3. Then it traveled upward and forward, exited in the right front chest area, pierced a ceiling tile and was "lost somewhere in the ceiling innerspace."

Bullet No. 5: Struck Ira Goldstein in the left rear buttock.

Bullet No. 6: Passed through Goldstein's left pants leg, struck the cement floor and entered Irwin Stroll's leg.

Bullet No. 7: Struck William Weisel in the left abdomen.

Bullet No. 8: Struck the plaster ceiling, ricocheted and hit Elizabeth Evans in the forehead.

As for the AP picture, Wolfer once made a statement in a deposition that a door frame had been booked as evidence and examined but the hole in it was not made by a bullet.

Neither the pantry arithmetic nor Wolfer's explanation have satisfied skeptics, however. They question how eight bullets could have made "all those holes."

Noguchi told the Los Angeles Times he thought Kennedy's wounds ~~were~~ were consistent with the position in which

the senator and Sirhan were placed by authorities, provided the muzzle distance was point-blank.

Critics disagree. They contend Kennedy's wounds could not have been inflicted from Sirhan's position or that a bullet could have passed through the shoulder-pad area and hit Schrader. Schrader himself says he does not understand how he could have been shot in the way authorities said.

Responding to questions a week ago, the district attorney's office supported the police version of the path of the shoulder pad or Schrader bullet. The DA also said prosecutors had relied upon a summary of the bullet paths and a later schematic in prosecuting Sirhan.

"It must be remembered that there never was any indication of any other person firing in the pantry," the statement said.

The left sleeve of Kennedy's coat is missing, and skeptics question that, too. They ask how many bullet holes might be in the sleeve if it were found. When Wolfer was asked that question once in a deposition, he reasoned that there would be no holes in the sleeve because the bullets would have had to go somewhere in the pantry and none was found.

Is There a Solution?

SEVEN YEARS after the assassination, the questions and the demands for answers persist. Can the questions ever be conclusively answered? Will someone in official capacity take steps to erase the doubts?

The pressure on authorities to deal with the dilemma began slowly mounting last December when Lowenstein held a press conference here. Essentially, Lowenstein posed the same questions that Charach has been tenaciously pursuing for five years. But one powerful added ingredient at the press conference was the release of a statement by four of the five persons who were wounded in the pantry that night when the senator was shot.

Paul Schrader, Ira Goldstein, William Weisel and Irwin Stroll made this joint statement:

"Four of us who were wounded in the assassination of Robert Kennedy have become convinced of the need for a new investigation of this case. Until now, we have strongly resisted all efforts to question the obvious and official version that Kennedy's death and our being wounded involved ~~only one gunman.~~"

The four shooting victims said Lowenstein had raised serious questions "about the substantial discrepancies and gaps in evidence which have created grave doubts in our minds about the official version."

Virtually everyone involved in the controversy agrees that the most substantial question centers on the Sirhan gun and the bullets. When and if the case is reopened, the refiring of the gun will have top priority.

Why have authorities resisted refiring the weapon? Why not just do it and put an end to all the speculation about the bullet evidence?

The resistance to refiring the weapon is based, at least in part, on the concern that the district attorney's office has about the "integrity" of the ballistics exhibits.

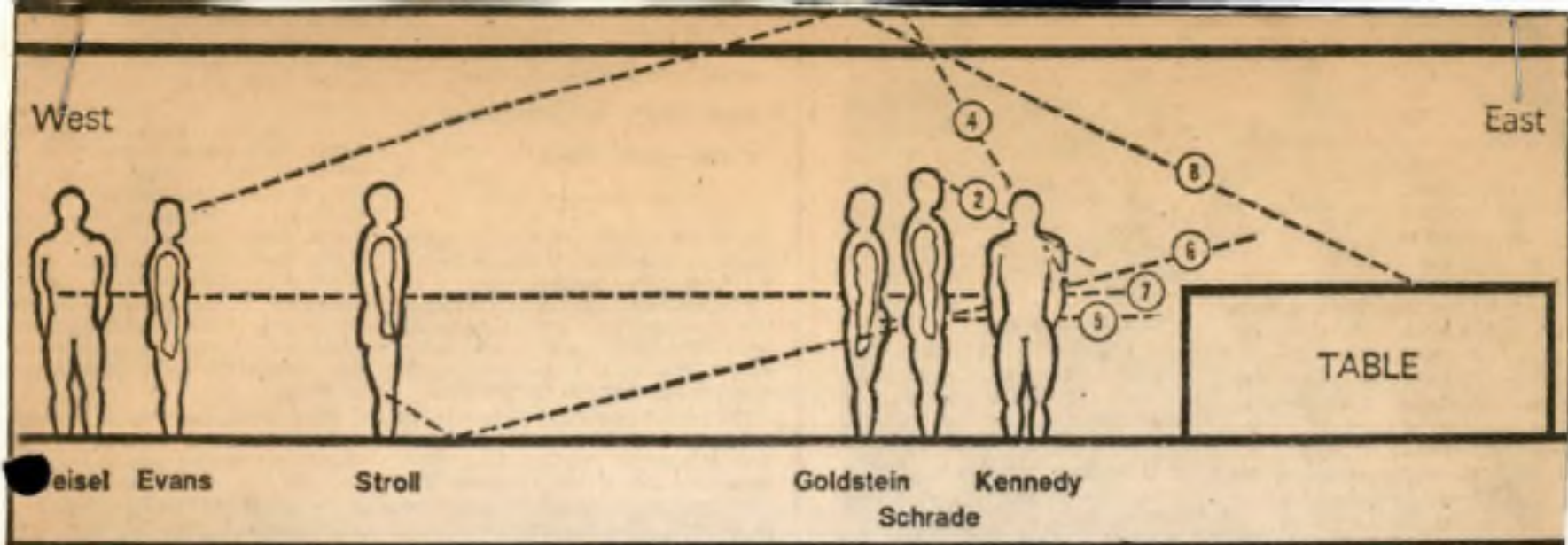
This position was bolstered by the following finding by the 1971 Los Angeles County grand jury:

"Because the exhibits under the custody of the county clerk's officer were handled, examined and photographed by unauthorized persons, and mishandled by county clerk's personnel, there exists a reservation on the part of the grand jury relating to the present integrity of the ballistic exhibits . . ."

Critics of the investigation claim that this is a false issue used by the district attorney's office to divert attention from key questions. There was no evidence developed during the 1971 grand jury investigation that any tampering with exhibits actually occurred, but investigators remain gravely concerned about it.

And so the debate goes on. It seems certain that it will not be stilled until the gun is refired, and perhaps not even then.

"God help us," says acting District Attorney John Howard, "if all the bullet comparisons are inconclusive after refiring the gun. Then someone will probably come up with a third-gun theory."



Trajectories of six bullets fired during the shooting. Bullets 1 and 3, not shown, were lodged in Sen. Kennedy's body.

Los Angeles



Paul Schrade, wounded in the shooting, has joined former Rev. Allard Lowenstein in urging reopening of the case.

United Press International

1 - Mr. Gebhardt
1 - Mr. Nettles
1 - Mr. Mintz
1 - Mr. Moore

July 17, 1975

62-587-

Mr. John J. Popp
7901 Bothwell
Reseda, California 91335

Dear Mr. Popp:

Your letter of April 23, 1975, to President Ford concerning the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert F. Kennedy, has been sent to me for reply. It was originally referred to the Commission on CIA Activities, but that Commission expired prior to an answer to your letter being made.

The FBI conducted a prompt, intensive, objective, and thorough investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy. The results of this investigation were fully and accurately reported and furnished to the Warren Commission. After an in-depth review of the voluminous FBI reports and information from numerous other agencies and sources, that Commission reached its conclusions.

It is possible to pick out bits and pieces of information in this case and arrive at conclusions at odds with the Warren Commission findings. But these conclusions are not based on the totality of the evidence and are generally matters of personal opinion.

The FBI likewise conducted an extensive investigation into the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Since there has been recent publicity in this case regarding investigation and prosecution conducted by California authorities which might possibly lead to judicial action, I do not feel it appropriate for me to comment on it.

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Legal Coun. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director's Sec'y _____

WEN:cjl (8)

SFE NOTE PAGE 2 . . .

AUG 12 1975

MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-109060-7225

Mr. John J. Popp

The FBI conducts follow-up inquiries on new allegations in both these cases, where appropriate, but there have been no developments to warrant the reopening of full investigations.

If you have any information of value regarding these cases or coverups in conjunction with them, I would certainly be interested in hearing from you.

I have furnished a copy of this letter to The White House.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

- delivered 7/18/75 BAW*
- 1 - Director of Correspondence (By Liaison) - *detached*
The White House
 - 1 - Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division (Encs. - 2)

NOTE: Writer in letter to President Ford states there have been obvious efforts on the part of various Government agencies, courts of law, and the Warren Commission, to cover up the true facts of the assassinations of President Kennedy and Senator Kennedy. He states he is looking forward to a reply and report on current activities to bring out the truth in these matters. He offers his assistance in seeking out the truth. This letter was originally referred by the White House to the Commission on CIA Activities, but was returned unanswered. It was then referred to the Attorney General who referred it to the FBI. No comments are being made in this reply concerning the assassination of Senator Kennedy since there has been much publicity lately regarding ballistics tests conducted by the Los Angeles Police Department, which might lead to legal action for a new trial. Bureau files contain no information readily identifiable with writer.

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

To: **The Attorney General**

Date: **July 1, 1975**

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☐ Draft reply for:
☐ President's signature.
☐ Undersigned's signature.

☐ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.

☒ Direct reply.
☒ Furnish information copy.

☐ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
☐ Furnish copy of reply, if any.

☐ For your information.
☐ For comment.

NOTE

Prompt action is essential. **2 weeks!**

If more than ~~XXXXXX~~ delay is encountered, please telephone ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ **Miss Byrne 456-6688**

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
JUL 3 1975

Robert F. Kennedy

REMARKS:

Initially sent to Commission on CIA Activities -- was returned.

62-587-

Description:

NOT RECORDED
202 AUG 11 1975
17 JUL 23 1975

☒ Letter: _____ Telegram: _____ Other: _____

To: **The President**
 From: **John J. Popp, 7901 Bothwell, Reseda, Ca. 91355 and Miss Patricia Justice, 4771 Hilltop, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001**
 Date: **April 28, 1975**
 Subject: **JFK assassination and Warren Commission Report.**

(2 letters)

ENCLOSURE

By direction of the President:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Roland L. Elliott
 Director of Correspondence

RLE:JHH:PB:emp

(Department or Agency copy)

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-109060-

April 28, 1975

President Gerald Ford
The White House
Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

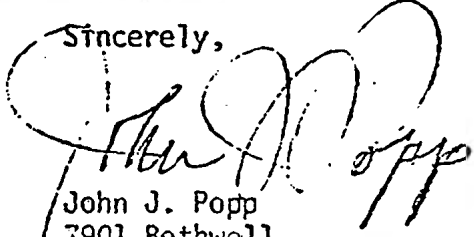
I and tens of thousands of other citizens in the Los Angeles area had the alarming and eye opening opportunity to see KCOP-TV Channel 13's "Both Sides Now" programs from 8.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, and Friday, April 25, 1975. The information and films presented by Mort Sahl and his guests concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963 in Dallas, Texas, and Senator Robert F. Kennedy on June 5, 1968 in Los Angeles, California DEMAND that you and your colleagues in the United States Senate and the House of Representatives quit playing political games and initiate legislation and investigation into these, perhaps the greatest tragedies in the history of our country. These tragedies have been magnified by the obvious efforts of various government agencies, courts of law, and the infamous Warren Commission to cover up the true facts and constitute a terrible and tragic fraud on the American public. The sands of time are running out on elected representatives and government officials who chose to serve unknown masters and purposes rather than the interests of the people who elected them.

I well remember that black day and the grief filled week-end that followed almost twelve years ago, and KCOP's program has stirred the deep anger that I felt then, and brought it to focus again. This country has always stood for truth, honesty, belief in human and God given rights, and it is time - REALLY TIME - to renew your dedication to these principles.

I will look forward to your reply and a report on your current activities to bring out the truth in these matters and insist that you support the activity of others in ferreting out all of the facts so that all of those responsible will quickly feel the swift, sure justice which they have escaped from for almost twelve long years.

If I can personally be of any assistance to you or anyone else seeking the truth, I will be pleased to offer whatever time and service I can.

Sincerely,


John J. Popp
7901 Bothwell
Reseda, CA 91335

62-587-
ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

Director

TO : Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: May 2 1975
JCK:CWB:JRR:jaj
129-11

FROM: John C. Keeney
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

SUBJECT: Response to Inquiries Regarding Investigation of Assassinations

Recently another flurry of interest has occurred in the assassinations by Oswald, Sirhan, Ray and attempted assassination by Bremer. In the past, we have routinely responded to inquiries on the sufficiency of the investigations in about the same tenor as indicated in the attached form letter. The inquiries are routed to us unless addressed to you. In the latter case, they are routed to the FBI for response.

Inasmuch as the allegations are in the main repetitive, or if new in all likelihood, after such investigation as may be warranted, prove unfounded (e.g. the claim that E. Howard Hunt was in Dallas on the fatal day), FBI response to all such inquiries appears appropriate unless and until significant new evidence comes to light which might warrant action by the Criminal Division. Such consolidation will insure consistency in responses, avoiding for instance the possible overstatement as to your recent remarks in Dallas. See attachment, third paragraph, last sentence.

If you concur in the foregoing, please advise the Administrative Services Section, Office of Management and Finance, of our agreement so its staff can properly route such matters in the future. We would appreciate a copy of any such advice for our files or your comment on the foregoing if you do not concur therein.

1- ENCLOSURE

*memo to
Administrative Services Section
Office of Management & Finance
5-12-75
aut: eac*

62-587-5-15
NOT RECORDED
MAY 5 1975
MAY 23 1975

31 MAY 5 1975
EXP-PROC
ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-10961-22

Administrative Services Section
Office of Management and Finance

5/12/75

Director, FBI

62-587-

RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES REGARDING
INVESTIGATION OF ASSASSINATIONS

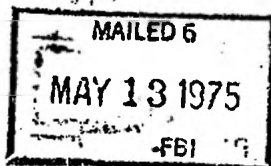
Pursuant to a memorandum of May 2, 1975, from John C. Keeney, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, this is to advise that the FBI has no objections to receiving referrals of letters concerning assassinations by Oswald, Sirhan, Ray, and the attempted assassination by Bremer. We would like to request, however, that if the correspondent has already received a letter from the FBI and is writing to the Attorney General or the Department because he is not satisfied or if he expresses a desire for the opinion of the Department that the Department handle this reply without referral to the FBI.

Mr. Keeney asked that your office be informed of our decision so that your staff can properly route such matters in the future.

- 1 - Acting Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt - Enclosure

awt:eac (7)

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Director's Sec'y _____



RECEIVED DIRECTOR

MAY 15 3 26 PM '75

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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Handwritten text: Rem 7833 JEM

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VV EIA307

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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FM CIA

o KENSALT

TO RUEHC/DEPT OF STATE

RUFBI/FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RUEISSQ/SECRET SERVICE//ID

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Bishop _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Director's Sec'y _____

BT

SECRET NO FOREIGN. CITE CIA 676549.

NO FOREIGN DISSEM/CONTROLLED DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD.

CIR-316/20,050-75

SUBJECT: VISIT TO LEBANON OF SA'DALLAH SIRHAN, BROTHER OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY'S ASSASSIN

NO FURTHER DISSEMINATION OR ACTION BASED ON THIS CABLE IS AUTHORIZED
WITHOUT THE PRIOR PERMISSION OF CIA.

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED ON 27 MARCH 1975
FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE WITH ESTABLISHED ACCESS TO OFFICIALS OF THE
PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. SA'DALLAH SIRHAN, BROTHER
OF SIRHAN SIRHAN, THE ASSASSIN OF SENATOR ROBERT F.
KENNEDY, HAS BEEN IN BEIRUT SINCE APPROXIMATELY 20 MARCH 1975
ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT OFFICIALS OF PALESTINIAN FEDAYEEN ORGANIZA-

58 APR 11 1975

NOT RECORDED
202 APR 9 1975

ORIGINAL FILED IN 105-188122-6

TIONS, INCLUDING THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO). THE PURPOSE OF SA'DALLAH'S VISIT TO BEIRUT IS TO RAISE \$150,000 TO APPEAL HIS BROTHER'S CASE. (SOURCE COMMENT: SA'DALLAH HAS TOLD PLO OFFICIALS THAT ACCORDING TO (UNSPECIFIED) ATTORNEYS, IT IS POSSIBLE TO APPEAL SIRHAN'S CASE BECAUSE NEW EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT THE BULLET WHICH KILLED KENNEDY DID NOT COME FROM SIRHAN'S GUN. SA'DALLAH ALSO HAS STATED TO PLO OFFICIALS THAT THE FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS OWE SIRHAN THIS MONEY BECAUSE HE ACTED ON BEHALF OF THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE.)

2. SA'DALLAH PARTICULARLY HAS BEEN TRYING TO OBTAIN AN APPOINTMENT WITH YASIR ' A R A F A T, FATAH LEADER AND PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. HOWEVER, 'ARAFAT HAS REFUSED TO GRANT THE APPOINTMENT AND HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO AVOID SA'DALLAH. THE LATTER WAS STILL IN BEIRUT AS OF 27 MARCH.

CLASSIFIED BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER. EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE E.O. 11652 EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5B(2). IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE DATE OF AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION.

BT

#0565

NNNN HZGNDI-FCHIT-OFINSN7

TOR 021515Z APR 75 TKS

FOIA Unit
Federal Bureau of Investigation

March 12, 1975

Susan M. Hauser
Staff Assistant to the
Deputy Attorney General

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST - Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

Enclosed herewith is a request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, for access to the FBI file relating to the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Pursuant to 28 CFR § 16.5 which took effect on February 19, 1975, the responsible division shall, within ten working days, either comply with or deny a request for records unless unusual circumstances warrant an extension of time.

In cases where additional time is required, extensions shall be granted by the head of the division in increments of five days or less. The requester should be notified of the reasons for the time extension and the date on which a determination is expected.

If the request is denied, the requester should be informed by the head of the responsible division of 1) the exemption(s) authorizing the withholding of the records, 2) how the exemption applies to the record withheld and, where relevant, a brief explanation of why discretionary release is not appropriate, 3) the name and title of the person(s) responsible for the denial, and 4) his right of administrative appeal within 30 days to the Attorney General and the availability of judicial review thereafter.

Copies of all acknowledgements, extension notices, and responses should be forwarded to my office, Room 4212.

ENCLOSURE

62-587-

NOT RECORDED
170 APR 17 1975

51 APR 21 1975

67-44206-44
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Law Offices

FENSTERWALD AND OHLHAUSEN

910 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 223-1667

RECEIVED
MAY 12 1975
DEPUTY
ATTORNEY GENERAL
EDWARD FENSTERWALD, JR.
WILLIAM G. OHLHAUSEN
ANDERSON F. HARRISON
OF COUNSEL

NEW YORK ASSOCIATES

BASS & ULLMAN
747 THIRD AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

March 10, 1975

The Deputy Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Dear Mr. Deputy Attorney General:

On December 15, 1970, on behalf of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations, I filed a suit in the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia (Civil No. 3651-70) under the Freedom of Information Act for access to the FBI file of approximately 6,000 pages relating to the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles in June, 1968. I based my entitlement on the fact that the file had been available, not only to Sirhan Sirhan for his defense but also, to two authors, both of whom used it in preparation of their published works on the subject.

The Department of Justice refused access under the "investigative file" exception, and their contention was upheld in both the District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals. In the U.S. Court of Appeals, the case was argued jointly with Weisberg v. Department of Justice. It was these cases, especially the Weisberg Case which (according to the legislative history) resulted in the recent amendments to the Freedom of Information Act in December, 1974. For the sake of convenience, I am enclosing a copy of the Brief for Plaintiff-Appellant and Joint Appendix in the Court of Appeals case; the Appendix sets out in detail what was at issue.

Under the Freedom of Information Act as revised (P.L. 93-502, 88 Stat. 2561) and the new D.O.J. Regulations (40 F.R. 7261 et seq.), I hereby renew, on the part of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations and myself as an individual, the request to see the FBI file of approximately 6,000 pages on the murder of Senator Robert Kennedy.

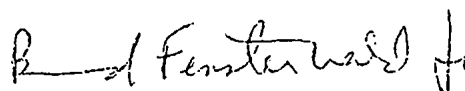
62-587-

ENCLOSURE

The Deputy Atty. General
Mar. 10, 1975
Page 2

We are willing to bear the cost of search regardless of whether it exceeds \$25.00. However, we wish to examine the file before we decide upon what parts of it, if any, we wish to have reproduced.

Sincerely yours,



Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.
Executive Director
Committee to Investigate Assassinations

Encl.
BF:crr

811 Prince St.
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Tel: 548-4623

August 26, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. CALLAHAN
MR. JENKINS
MR. COCHRAN

RE: DALE SPECK

On August 26, 1975, Mr. Dale Speck, former Assistant Chief, Los Angeles Police Department, and now Director of the Sacramento Office of the Division of Law Enforcement in the Attorney General's Office, phoned me from Sacramento, telephone number (916) 322-4350. *Robert Kennedy*

He said that the Sirhan Sirhan case having been reopened by court order will necessitate the assembly of a panel on ballistics. In pursuance of this, Mr. Speck has been charged with the responsibility of drawing together a group of distinguished people to serve on this panel. One panel member designated is Mr. Al Biasotti of the State of California Laboratory System. Mr. Biasotti in turn recommended to Mr. Speck that Special Agent Cortlandt Cunningham of the FBI Laboratory, Washington, D. C., be invited to attend as a panel member. This information was subsequently given to Mr. Kelleher and requested recommendation be made to me by August 27, 1975. *KL*

Very truly yours,

Clarence M. Kelley
Clarence M. Kelley
Director

CMK:RM (5)

EX 104

REC-42

62-587-1305
5 AUG 29 1975

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SENT FROM D. O.

TIME 6:41 AM

DATE 8-27-75

ENCLOSURE

SEP 5 1975

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OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

12:26PM August 26, 1975

DALE

Director, SPECK, Division of Law Enforcement, Office of the Attorney General of the State of California, Sacramento, California, called and asked to speak to the Director.

Mr. Speck was told that the Director was not available to speak with him at the moment and was asked if anyone else could be of service. Mr. Speck declined to speak to anyone else and said he has to speak to the Director personally.

Mr. Speck asked that the Director return his call on (916) 322-4350.

MR. CALLAHAN _____
MR. JENKINS _____
MR. ADAMS _____
MR. ASH _____
MR. BASSETT _____
MR. CLEVELAND _____
MR. COCHRAN _____
MR. DECKER _____
MR. GALLAGHER _____
MR. HOXIE _____
MR. MC DERMOTT _____
MR. MINTZ _____
MR. MOONEY _____
MR. MOORE _____
MR. WALSH _____
MR. WANNALL _____
MR. COLEMAN _____
MR. REED _____
TELE. ROOM _____
MRS. METCALF _____

~~Out 4:25 LEFT WORD~~

4:19 SPOKE

ret

*Call him around
8/26
4 PM
K*

*Memo for Callahan,
Jenkins & Cochran
8-26-75
Cm/H*

ENCLOSURE

62-587-1305

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 27 1975

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NR 051 LA CODE

855PM NITEL 6-27-75 GLD

TO DIRECTOR (62-587)

FROM LOS ANGELES (56-156) (C)

ATTN: FOIA SECTION

KENSALT

PURSUANT TO BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL JUNE 25, 1975, INQUIRY WAS MADE OF THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT (LAPD) CONCERNING DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OF INFORMATION IN THE LAPD SUMMARY REPORT OF THE ASSASSINATION OF ROBERT KENNEDY.

COMMANDER RAY RUDEL OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES OF THE LAPD ADVISED THAT HIS DEPARTMENT IS TOTALLY OPPOSED TO DISSEMINATION OF THIS INFORMATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AND WILL TAKE ANY STEPS NECESSARY TO PREVENT THIS DISSEMINATION AND WILL CONSULT WITH THE LOS ANGELES CITY ATTORNEY FOR LEGAL ACTION, IF NECESSARY.

REC-106

62-587-1306

IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE BUREAU INSTRUCT WHAT COMMUNICATIONS NEEDED FROM LAPD SO THAT BUREAU MAY ANSWER THE DEPARTMENT RE THIS MATTER.

END

HOLD PLS

AUG 1 1975

Smith 448

John H. ...

The Deputy Attorney General

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. Callahan
1 - Mr. Jenkins
1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Cochran
1 - Mr. Mintz
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Cunningham

August 29, 1975

ASSASSINATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY

You will recall from our conversation of August 26, 1975, and your subsequent discussion with Inspector Thomas F. Kelleher, Jr., of the FBI Laboratory, that the Bureau's authorization was sought to nominate one of our firearms experts to serve on a panel of experts being formed to assist in additional examinations ordered for the weapon used in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a letter directed to Mr. Dale Speck, Director of the Law Enforcement Division of the California Department of Justice in Sacramento, setting forth the conditional authorization which met with your approval.

Enclosure

TFK:bsm (10)

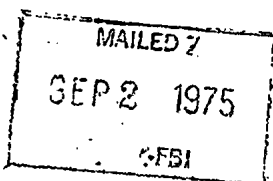
NOTE: Based on memorandum T. F. Kelleher, Jr., to Mr. Cochran dated 8/28/75, same re

REC-42

EX-105

1307
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Director Sec'y _____



SEP 10 1975

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

NR 013 LA CODE

8:46PM NITEL 8-29-75 RLD

TO DIRECTOR (62-587)

FROM LOS ANGELES (56-156) (C)

CKENSALT

REC-11

ON AUGUST 28, 1975, FORMER SPECIAL AGENT, ROGER LA JEUNESSE ADVISED HE HAS BEEN ASKED TO APPEAR ON KTTV CHANNEL 11 AT 11:30AM, SEPTEMBER 2, 1975, ON A PROGRAM ENTITLED, "LETS RAP." THE TOPIC OF THIS PROGRAM WILL BE THE REOPENING OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY. LA JEUNESSE ADVISED HE MADE IT CLEAR TO KTTV THAT HE IS A FORMER AGENT AND CANNOT SPEAK OFFICIALLY FOR THE BUREAU, BUT HAS BEEN ASKED TO PRESENT THE "ESTABLISHMENT'S" VERSION OF THE ASSASSINATION IN OPPOSITION TO A MR. JACK KIMBROUGH, WHO IS URGING THE REOPENING OF THE ASSASSINATION. FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE

Asst. Dir.	_____
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Director Sec'y	_____

Halt
PERMAN
W. O. ...
RS
Shadelford

REC-1162-587-1308

EX 104

CC-5
SEP 05 1975

W. O. ...
1071

PAGE TWO 56-156

BUREAU, LOS ANGELES HAS A 100 SUBJECT FILE ON KIMBROUGH, LOS ANGELES 100-50428 (NO BUREAU FILE NUMBER). LOS ANGELES FILE REFLECTS KIMBROUGH WAS EXPELLED FROM "YOUNG PROGRESSIVES OF AMERICA" IN ABOUT 1950 ON CHARGE OF WHITE CHAUVINISM AND WAS SUBSCRIBER TO DWP QOTIM CASE WAS CLOSED 1974 AS KIMBROUGH HAD NO ACTIVITY WITH CP MATTERS.

FORMER SA LA JEUNESSE DID NOT ASK ADVICE OR CLEARANCE FROM BUREAU CONCERNING APPEARANCE, BUT HAS ASSURED THAT HE WILL PORTRAY THE BUREAU IN A FAVORABLE LIGHT. IT IS NOTED THAT FORMER SA LA JEUNESSE HAS KNOWLEDGE OF THIS CASE AS HE ACTED IN THE CAPACITY OF A LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THIS MATTER.

THE ABOVE IS FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU.

END

1 - Mr. Callahan
1 - Mr. Jenkins
1 - Mr. Adams

August 29, 1975

Airmail

1 - Mr. Cochran
1 - Mr. Mintz
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Cunningham

Mr. Dale Speck
Director
Law Enforcement Division
California Department of Justice
3301 "C" Street
Sacramento, California 95813

TITLE

KENSALT

Dear Mr. Speck:

This is to confirm our telephone conversation of August 26, 1975, and your subsequent conversation with Inspector Thomas F. Kelleher, Jr., of the FBI Laboratory on August 27, 1975.

Your nomination of Special Agent Cortlandt Cunningham of the FBI Laboratory to serve on a panel of firearms experts being formed to assist in additional examinations ordered of the weapon used in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy is authorized by this Bureau under the following conditions:

- (1) That the Los Angeles Police Department Laboratory be represented at panel meetings to explain the action previously taken in their examinations of the weapon.
- (2) That any final report, when drafted, set forth technical information concerning the present condition of the weapon noting any changes in the weapon's characteristics in the intervening seven years which could affect the examinations.

5 SEP 9 1975

NOTE: Based on memorandum T. F. Kelleher, Jr., to Mr. Cochran dated 8/28/75, same re.

TFK:bsm (9)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

No ref. info.

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FBI

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CRIMINAL SEC.

LABORATORY DIVISION

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Mr. Dale Speck

- (3) That the FBI examiner be authorized to prepare a separate report if he has any disagreement in procedure or results from other panel members.

Your interest in contacting me in this matter is sincerely appreciated and is indicative of the fine spirit of cooperation which has developed between our organizations.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Cochran

FROM : M. J. Stack, Jr.

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY

1-Mr. Cochran

1-Mr. Stack

DATE: August 22, 1975

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The attached newspaper article appeared in the Washington Post on 8/15/75. It reports the order by a Superior Court Judge in Los Angeles, California, that the weapon used in the assassination be refired and that prior to 9/11/75, the concerned attorneys decide on which ballistics expert should conduct this test firing and, presumably, associated comparison examinations.

This is indicative of a growing furor concerning alleged discrepancies in connection with the Los Angeles, California, Police laboratory examinations dealing with the assassination; a furor expressing itself in demands for reexamination of the evidence, with emphasis on the firearms aspects. In this atmosphere, it is conceivable that the FBI Laboratory could be asked to assume a "referee Laboratory" position regarding a reexamination of the physical evidence involved. **BB**

To put this matter in perspective, it should be clearly recalled that no items of evidence were submitted nor were any examinations conducted by the FBI Laboratory relating to this case. In addition, the efforts of the Laboratory over the last two years have been to recognize the competency of state and local laboratories. In keeping with the latter facet, the Laboratory has developed a policy that we would not reexamine any items of evidence previously examined by another laboratory without the specific request from the head of that agency, where compelling reasons exist and where the interest of justice would be served. Even disregarding the tenderness of this growing relationship or the political ramifications involved, our overriding concern must be directed towards the inherent difficulties of such reexaminations.

For instance, newspaper accounts indicate that the evidence weapon was test fired a minimum of seven times and along with the test bullets was handled and examined during the intervening years by numerous authors, newsmen and others questioning the trial results.

1-Mr. Mintz
1-Mr. Moore

5 SEP 2 1975

MJS:cp (5)

(CONTINUED - OVER)

SEVEN

4 SEP 30 1975

Memorandum to Mr. Cochran
ASSASSINATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY

On the face of it, a competent firearms examiner would recognize the clear possibility that normal barrel changes could result in no conclusion being reached and rather than such a reexamination ending the controversy, it would simply accelerate it. As an Assistant District Attorney in Los Angeles was quoted as saying in one recent newspaper article, "If the reexamination is inconclusive, God help us all." In addition, the surface corrosion which would be considered normal after such a long period (not to mention handling) may well preclude use of the original test bullets.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the above, it is recommended that the Bureau should resist all attempts to be drawn into the controversy and that, notwithstanding a request by the concerned laboratory director, we should not consider such a reexamination unless specifically ordered to by the Attorney General of the United States.

OK

WLB

TK

JD

Jmm

KENSALT

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Refiring of Sirhan's Revolver Ordered

Reuter

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 14—A Superior Court judge today ordered that the gun used by Sirhan B. Sirhan in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.) here in 1968 be refired to test a theory that there was a second gunman at the scene.

Judge Robert Wenke agreed to the firing in the face of mounting pressure from the news media, witnesses at the shooting and Sirhan that the .22 caliber, eight-shot revolver be tested.

Some ballistics experts have alleged since Sirhan was convicted in 1969 that some of the bullets found in the five people wounded with Kennedy in the shooting in the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel in June, 1968, could not have come from Sirhan's gun because marks on two of the bullets were different.

Among those joined in Superior Court today to get a re-testing of the evidence were CBS, the County of Los Angeles, the California State Attorney General's department and Paul Schrade, a member of Kennedy's campaign team, who was wounded in the shooting June 5 following Kennedy's victory in the California Democratic presidential primary.

The court's agreement to a re-firing of the gun sometime after Sept. 11 came after Wenke asked all lawyers assembled: "Is there any dispute that the gun should be fired?"

When he got no reply, Wenke said, "It is so ordered."

He instructed the attorneys to get together before Sept. 11 to try to work out which ballistics expert should handle the re-firing of the gun and what procedures should be used.

Sirhan's lawyer, Barry Gold, asked that the Palestinian immigrant, serving a life sentence in San Quentin Prison, be allowed to have his own ballistics expert present.

Among the conspiracy theories advanced since the Kennedy assassination was one that a hotel security guard was seen by reporters to draw his gun during the shooting in the hotel kitchen.

The Los Angeles District Attorney's office which obtained a death sentence against Sirhan, had resisted reopening the evidence on the ground that it could find no new proof of conspiracy.

Sirhan's death sentence was commuted to a life sentence in 1972 when the California Supreme Court ruled the death penalty unconstitutional.



SIRHAN B. SIRHAN
 ... convicted assassin

The Washington Post
A-1
8-15-75

ENCLOSURE

6-111
File
1310



☐ P.O. Box 13281
Sacramento, California
95813

Department of Justice

DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
3301 "C" STREET
SACRAMENTO 95816

September 4, 1975

Assoc. Dir.	_____
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Director Sec'y	_____

Mr. Clarence M. Kelley, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Kelley:

We have received your letter of August 29, 1975, authorizing Special Agent Courtlandt Cunningham to be nominated for service on a panel of firearm experts in a court-ordered examination of the weapon used in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. I appreciate very much your cooperation in this matter.

I am forwarding to you with this letter a copy of my memorandum to Russell Iungerich, Deputy Attorney General, who will incorporate in his recommendations to the presiding judge suggestions that I enumerated after discussion with Mr. Kelleher. I hope that this enumeration of the three suggestions adequately covers the three items which in your letter you refer to as conditions.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

DALE H. SPECK, Director
Division of Law Enforcement

mjm
Enclosure

REC- 45

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15 SEP 9 1975

1- ENCLOSURE

100CT 81975

Memorandum

To : Russell Tonerich
Deputy Attorney General

Date : August 28, 1975

From : Dale H. Speck, Director
Office of the Director

Subject: Nomination of Panel Member from the FBI for
Examination of Sirhan Case Evidence

Following a conversation with FBI Director Clarence Kelley on August 26, I received a response on August 27 from FBI Inspector-Deputy Assistant Director of the FBI Lab, Thomas F. Kelleher, Jr.

Mr. Kelleher suggests Mr. Courtlandt Cunningham as the representative of the FBI on the panel to examine firearms and bullets in connection with the Sirhan case.

Mr. Kelleher would appreciate notification as promptly as possible if Mr. Cunningham is selected for the panel and would also like timely notification concerning appearances and travel that would be required of Mr. Cunningham.

Mr. Kelleher specifically requested that three suggestions be made to Judge Wenke concerning the direction he issues to the examining panel. I concur with Mr. Kelleher. The suggestions are:

1. The panel members should be permitted and directed to make separate, independent examinations, and to submit separate, written opinions, so that in the event of there being any differences, however slight, in the opinions of the experts on the panel, these differences will be clearly enunciated.
2. The panel should be supplied with an historical recap of the passage of time and of the physical conditions which have ensued since the concerned firearms and bullets were originally taken into custody, so that they may be aware of the possibility that handling, corrosion or other physical factors may have affected comparability.
3. It is suggested that the initial examining laboratory, Los Angeles Police Department, either be represented on the panel

62-578-1311

Russell Tonerich

2.

August 28, 1975

or submit to the panel members a thorough explanation
of the examinations conducted in the past.

DH Speck
DALE H. SPECK, Director
Division of Law Enforcement

DHS:hp

cc: Charles A. Barrett

Al Biasotti

Thomas F. Kelleher, Jr.
Inspector-Deputy Assistant Director
F.B.I. Laboratory
Room 7621, 9th and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20535

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Cochran

DATE: 8/28/75

1 - Mr. Cochran Encls. 2

1 - Mr. Cunningham

Encls. 2

FROM : T. F. Kelleher, Jr.

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY

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In the afternoon of 8/26/75, Director Kelley advised me he had received a telephonic request from Mr. Dale Speck, Director, Law Enforcement Division, California Department of Justice, Sacramento, for authorization to nominate Special Agent Cortlandt Cunningham, Chief of the Firearms - Toolmarks Unit of the FBI Laboratory, for service on a panel of distinguished firearms experts being organized to assist in the further testing of the weapon used in captioned matter.

The effects of a seven-year time lapse on the questioned weapon militating against the possibility of any finding of value were briefly discussed with Mr. Kelley who indicated the nature of the request and importance of this case were overriding considerations necessitating our participation.

On 8/27/75, Mr. Kelley stated approval of the following conditions for Special Agent Cunningham's nomination for participation in the proposed panel:

- (1) That the Los Angeles Police Department Laboratory be represented at panel meetings to explain the action previously taken in their examinations of the weapon.
- (2) That any final report, when drafted, set forth technical information concerning the present condition of the weapon noting any changes in the weapon's characteristics in the intervening seven years which could affect the examinations.
- (3) That the FBI examiner be authorized to prepare a separate report if he has any disagreement in procedure or results from other panel members.

Enclosures (2) sent 8/29/75 mhw

- 1 - Mr. Callahan Encls. 2
- 1 - Mr. Jenkins Encls. 2
- 1 - Mr. Adams Encls. 2
- 1 - Mr. Mintz Encls. 2
- 1 - Mr. Moore Encls. 2

TFK:bsm (8) 1975

(CONTINUED - OVER)

Memorandum to Mr. Cochran
Re: ASSASSINATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY

At Mr. Kelley's instructions, I contacted the office of Deputy Attorney General Harold R. Tyler to advise him of the above information. At Mr. Tyler's request, I personally briefed him in his office in the early evening of 8/27/75, concerning the above situation. Mr. Tyler stated he was in full agreement with the Director's course of action and with the stated conditions concerning FBI participation commenting "I wouldn't have it any other way."

Pursuant to Mr. Kelley's instructions, I thereafter contacted Mr. Dale Speck and informed him of Mr. Kelley's approval of his nomination of Special Agent Cunningham for service on the panel under the above-stated conditions. Mr. Speck fully agreed with these provisions and expressed appreciation for this action. He estimated the panel members would be chosen by 9/11/75.

RECOMMENDATION:

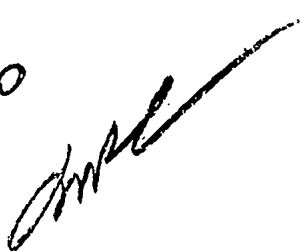
(1) The attached letter to Mr. Speck confirming the above conversation be sent.



(2) That the attached letter to Deputy Attorney General Tyler be sent.



TJS
JVO



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)

DATE: 9/22/75

FROM : ACTING ADIC, LOS ANGELES (56-156) (P)

SUBJECT: KENSALT

Enclosed for the Bureau is the original and four copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) captioned, "ALFRED RAHEB".

For the information of the Bureau, the information contained in this LHM was telephonically furnished 9/16/75 by a CLAUDETTE PRIDDY of 829 East Garfield, Glendale, California, telephone number 247-0550.

PRIDDY claimed to be the sister-in-law of ALFRED RAHEB, and requested that her identity be completely protected for if she should be disclosed as the source of this information, it would cause a great deal of family problems between her and her sister whom she described as "nice, stupid, and square".

The indices of the Los Angeles Office contained no record that could be identified with CLAUDETTE PRIDDY. The indices of the Los Angeles Office contained seven references on ALFRED or AL RAHEB who was the owner of a photo finishing shop in the Hollywood area. A review of these references which covered a period from 1954 - 1969 reflected in each case that RAHEB was a complainant and furnished this office information concerning individuals having photographic work done that aroused the suspicion of RAHEB due to the nature of the photographs. RAHEB also furnished information concerning an employee of his photographic shop who carried pictures of CASTRO and voiced pro-CASTRO remarks. RAHEB, in 1963 in connection with the

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2 - Los Angeles

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EX-106

REC 44

62-587-1313

15 SEP 30 1975

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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

investigation of the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY, furnished information concerning his family physician, Dr. STANLEY DRENNAN, who RAHEB stated had discussed with others a plan for assassinating President JOHN F. KENNEDY, Attorney General ROBERT F. KENNEDY, and 20 or 30 members of Congress including Senator JACOB JAVITTS of New York. This information was previously furnished to the Bureau under Bureau file 62-108640 entitled, "Dr. STANLEY L. DRENNAN".

It is noted that there were no references to RAHEB in connection with the KENSALT investigation. Exhaustive investigation was conducted at that time concerning friends of the SIRHAN family; and investigation conducted at the Fez Night Club where SIRHAN's brother was employed never developed information concerning ALFRED RAHEB.

In view of the status of this case and also in consideration of the current reopening of a phase of this case involving a reexamination of the ballistics evidence, no investigation concerning this matter will be conducted by this office.

As all previous information obtained in this case has been disseminated to the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office and to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), copies of this LHM will be furnished to these departments.

In view of the information received concerning RAHEB, United States Secret Service at Los Angeles was telephonically advised and a copy of this memorandum will also be furnished to that department.

UACB, no further action other than that indicated will be taken by this office.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

September 22, 1975

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

~~ALFRED RAHEB~~

CML.

A source who has requested that her identity be concealed and whose reliability is not known to the Bureau, has furnished information concerning the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The source telephonically advised on September 16, 1975 that for the past several years, she has suspected that an individual by the name of Alfred Raheb was possibly involved with others in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Raheb, according to the source, was always speaking with hate of the Kennedy family, and in particular, of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Further, source stated that Raheb has thrown darts at photographs of the late Senator.

Two days after Kennedy was killed, Raheb arranged to have a withdrawal made of \$4,000.00 - \$5,000.00 from a bank in Encino, California, and went to the residence of an unidentified woman who resided about six blocks east of Western Avenue on Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, California. The name of the bank in Encino was not recalled by the source.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

62-587-1313